1947

Development. (1947) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 5555

Dated 1-12-

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fisheries - Socio-Economic work - Uplift of the Fishermen community - Fisheries Conference held in Singapore - Certain recommendations - Panaru - Recorded -

Copy of letter No.28-8/47-Fy, dated 8th April 1947 from the Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture, New Delhi addressed to the Secretary to the Govt. of Madras, Development Deptt., Madras.

Sub: Fisheries Conference held in Singapore on the 6th 7th and 8th January 1947.

I am directed to say that a Fisheries Conference was held at Singapore on the 6th, 7th and 8th January, 1947. Dr. Baini Prashad, D.Sc., O. B.E., Fisheries Development Adviser to the Government of India was deputed to attend this Conference. The minutes of the Conference and the report of the Fisheries Development Adviser thereon are being printed. Printed copies will be supplied to the Provincial Governments as soon as they are ready. Mean-while a copy of minutes on item No.VIII of the agenda relating to the Fishing Community together with a copy of Dr. Prashad's comments thereon is enclosed with the request that Provincial Governments may take such action as may be considered necessary for the education and training of fishermen's sons in up-to-date methods of fishing.

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Endt.No.34691F/47-1, dated 18-4-1947.

Referred to the Director of Industries and Commerce for very early remarks.

(Sd.) xxx
18-4-47.

To
The Director of Industries and Commerce
(with enclosure)

ITEM VIII.

THE FISHING COMMUNITY.

110, Mr. Crawford took the Ghair for this item of the Agenda

111. The Chairman said that fishermen were notoriously conservative, so that social work among them was very difficult He pointed out some of the difficulties which had been experienced with Co-operative Societies formed for Malay Fishermen.

FISHERIES SCHOOL-

12. Mr. LeMare described the Fisheries School which existed in Malaya before the war. The Government enrolled twenty sons of fishermen, and started them off with ~~twenty-sens-~~ making nets of the same type as were used by their fathers. They were soon taken to sea and assisted in setting the nets. They specialised in drift nets, purse seine nets and long lines. They used a powered vessel, a prototype of the modern M.F.V., and were trained in navigation and engine maintenance They were taught to handle their craft, pilot it and perform simple navigation. At first, short trips were taken, but only small catches of fish were made. On the next stage they went further afield where they could catch larger quanties of fish. They learned to catch fish, bring it back and market it. They were given the elements of book-keeping, because it is essential, if fishing is to be profitable, that the fishermen are taught costing, and what returns are required to make it pay. The syllabus covered two years. It was useless to try and teach older men; the men they taught were between eighteen and twenty years of age. The idea was to train them in advanced adaptation of their own method of fishing, which are good, and only needed developing in

P.T.O.

types of material and technique.

In reply to questions, Mr. Le Mare said that the youths paid a deposit of Ø100 before they began training; this was returned when they completed the course. The Government provided technical education, food, clothing and pocket money free. The physique of the pupils improved on their simple, native, well-balanced diet and with this well being they became keen and enthusiastic.

114. In reply to Mr. Boon Indrambarya, Mr. Le Mare said the cost to the Government was about Ø80 a month per student. This did not include salaries of staff and other overhead charges.

115. In reply to Mr. de Zylva, Mr. Le Mare confirmed that it was the intention that the youths, at the completion of their training, should return in groups of two or three for fishing in their own districts. It had also been intended to grant them subsidies, even to the extent of supplying them with powered vesse It was expected that part of these subsidies would be recovered. The war closed the scheme, but it would be revived.

Extracts of para 122 of Dr. Prashad's Comments.

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122. Mr. Kesteven gave an interesting description of conditions in Australia, where a school is being started for training fishermen, at first as a rehabilitation scheme for ex-service men. The students will be taught the general practice of fishing, together with technical, biological, meteorological and fish processing instruction. But, as he pointed out, conditions in Australia were very different from those in most other countries.

Copy of letter No.4070-H7/47 dated 20th November, 1947 from the Director of Industries and Commerce, Chepauk, Madras addressed to the Secretary to Govt, Development Deptt., Fort St. George, Madras.

Sub: Education - Fisheries - Education and training of Fishermen's sons in up-to-date methods of fishing . Recommendations of the Fisheries Conference held at Singapore in January, 1947 -

Ref: Govt. Endt.No.34691-F/47-1, dated 18-Ø4-1947.

Since the inception of the Madras Fisheries Department its activities were mainly directed to the soci-economic uplift of the fisherfolk by the establishment of schools exclusively fo fishermen. There are at present about 60 Fisheries Schools impart free elementary education to about 1,000 fisher-children. The curr culum includes instruction in nature study, biology, elementary knowledge of fish and fisheries, fish-curing, net-making etc. Rece one of these schools has been raised to the status of a High Schoo Till very recently, free midday meals were supplied to the fisher-children studying in these elementary schools. The fishermen are also given training in seaman-ship, navigation and Fisheries Scien at the Fisheries Training Institute at Tuticorin. As Government a aware, proposals have been submitted for the re-organisation of this Institute with a view to raising it to the grade of a polytechnic so as to impart instruction of a diploma standard. Instruc tion is also imparted in Fisheries Technology, Navigation and seamanship in the polytechnics in Madras and Cocanada. It is felt that the facilities offered by this Department, if fully availed of by the fishermen will go a long way to redeem their backwardness and ensure their cultural advancement.

Submitted for perusal of the reply of the D.I. & C. on p.7 above with refce. to the endt. on p.1 above. Communicating the letter of the Govt. of India dated 8.4.47 Communicating a copy of minutes of item VIII of the agenda. On the fishing community, and Dr.B.Prashad's criticism of it. As proper facilities have been provided for the fishing community, and necessary attention is focussed on the soci-economic uplift of the community no separate action seems called for. The papers may be closed, and recorded for future reference.

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30-1-47.

G.O.Ms.No.5559, dated 1-12-1947.

Sub: Fisheries Socio-economic work - Uplift of the fishermen community - Fisheries Conference held in Singapore - Certain recommendations - Papers recorded -

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/True Copy/

S. Jeyaraman
Office Assistant,

Madras Record Office.

13/5/54